NEW VISA REGIME BETWEEN LITHUANIA AND RUSSIA. Lithuania has reached a bilateral agreement with Russia modifying the visa regulations for cross-border visits says Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's Consular Department Arturas Zurauskas. Beginning April 1996, citizens of one country permanently residing in the other will be able to travel to and from their "ethnic motherland" without visas if they have an invitation. There will be no charge for visas for visitors taking part in scientific-technical and cultural exchanges, sports competitions, or funerals of close relatives. Visas for children under 16 will also be free of charge. The agreement gives law enforcement and other government bodies the right to bar someone from entering the other country or limiting the length of his stay without justifying their decision. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

OSTANKINO TO RETURN TO LITHUANIA. Broadcasts of Russian Ostankino TV programs, which were halted in early February after Lit-poliinter TV declared bankruptcy, will soon resume in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Radio and TV Board on 14 March declared that the new Free Independent Channel has won the contest to take over the channel that Litpoliinter used. FIC will transmit at its own cost Ostankino's main newscasts and selected cultural programs. Broadcasts are to run at least 18 hours a day. FIC's founders include the state-owned Lithuanian Agricultural Bank, the Lithuanian Workers' Union, and the joint-stock company Vingis, formed by some former Litpoliinter employees. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LINARES, Spain, March 18 (Reuter) - Results after the final round of the 13th annual Linares chess tournament held in Spain on Saturday show Alexei Shirov of Lithuania tied for third place with Vesselin Topalov of Bulgaria. Anatoli Karpov of Russia was just ahead in second place.

That's all the news we have from abroad, so we'll now move on to items of interest here in Northeast Ohio...